



## Interpretive Program Schedule, Summer/Fall

May 24 to November 2, 2013

### CHAPIN MESA AREA

#### Spruce Tree House, Self-Guided

45 minutes to 1 hour (free - no ticket required)

Spruce Tree House is Mesa Verde's best-preserved cliff dwelling. Allow 45 minutes to one hour for the 100-foot (30 m) descent and ascent on a winding path. The total walking distance is 0.5 mile (0.8 km) round-trip. Trail begins at the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum. Rangers are available to answer your questions.

May 24 to September 2	8:30 am to 6:30 pm
September 3 to October 19	9:00 am to 6:30 pm
October 20 to November 2	9:00 am to 5:00 pm

#### Cliff Palace

1 hour (ticket required)

Join a one-hour ranger-guided tour into this large and complex archeological site, which was built and occupied about AD 1190 to 1280. You'll descend uneven stone steps and climb five ladders for a 100-foot (30-m) vertical climb. Total walking distance is 0.25 mile (0.4 km) loop. Tour begins at Cliff Palace Overlook.

May 24 to September 2	9:00 am to 6:00 pm; every half-hour*
September 3 to October 19	9:00 am to 5:00 pm; every half-hour*
October 20 to November 2	9:00 am to 4:00 pm; every hour

\*Please note: Essential preservation work on Cliff Palace may be required this year; tour schedule disruptions are possible.

#### Balcony House

1 hour (ticket required)

The one-hour ranger-guided tour into Balcony House offers an intimate--and challenging--glimpse into an Ancestral Puebloan community of the late 13th century. You'll climb a 32-foot (9.8-m) ladder, crawl through a 12-foot (3.7-m) long tunnel, and climb up a 60-foot (20-m) open cliff face with stone steps and two 10-foot (3-m) ladders to exit the site. Tour begins at the north end of the Balcony House parking lot.

May 24 to August 17	9:00 am to 5:00 pm; every 1/2 hour
August 18 to August 30	9:00 am to 5:00 pm; every hour*
August 31 to September 2	9:00 am to 5:00 pm; every 1/2 hour
September 3 to October 19	9:00 am to 5:00 pm; every hour

\*Please note: Additional Balcony House tours will be added August 18 to August 30 if possible. Please check back for updates, or call the park at 970-529-4464.

### LIVING HISTORY PROGRAMS

#### Twilight Tours of Cliff Palace

90 minutes (ticket required - purchase at Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center)

Join historical figures from Mesa Verde's past for a 90-minute tour of Cliff Palace. These characters from the past, locked in their own time period, will give a fascinating perspective of their Mesa Verde experience. Tour is limited to 20 people. Tickets are \$10.00 per person, all ages.

May 26 to July 27	Nightly at 7:15 pm
July 28 to August 17	Nightly at 7:00 pm
August 18 to September 2	Nightly at 6:45 pm
September 3 to September 7	Nightly at 6:30 pm



Visitors on Twilight Tour of Cliff Palace with "CCC Boy"

### EDUCATIONAL TOURS FOR STUDENTS

#### Balcony House for School Groups (3rd - 12th grade)

90 minutes (free - no ticket, but reservations required)

A 90 minute, curriculum-based, ranger-guided tour of Balcony House, at no cost for 3rd to 12th grade educational groups. Group size is limited to 30 students per tour, and each tour must have at least one (and no more than three) educator/chaperone for every ten students.

The tour involves climbing a 32-foot ladder, crawling through a 12-foot- (3.7-m) long tunnel, and climbing up a 60-foot (20-m) open rock face with two 10-foot (3-m) ladders to exit the site.

September 3 to October 19	Variable schedule, call 970-529-5079
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### TOUR TICKETS

Tour tickets for Cliff Palace, Balcony House, and Long House are \$3.00 per tour, per person, regardless of age. Tickets can be purchased at the following locations and times:

#### **Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center**

May 24 to September 2  
7:30 am to 7:00 pm

September 3 to November 2  
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

#### **Morefield Ranger Station** (in Morefield Campground)

May 24 to September 2  
7:00 am to 11:00 am

#### **Colorado Welcome Center, Cortez**

May 24 to May 26 and  
September 2 to November 2  
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

May 27 to September 1  
8:00 am to 6:00 pm

## WETHERILL MESA AREA

(Wetherill Mesa Road open 9:00 am to 4:15 pm, May 24 to September 2)

### Long House Tours

#### 90 minutes (ticket required)

Quite and serene, Long House is one of Mesa Verde's largest cliff dwellings. Like Cliff Palace, it may have served as a community center when the Ancestral Pueblo people lived here. This 90-minute tour begins with a tram ride to and from the trailhead, and involves climbing two 15-foot (4.6-m) ladders within the site. The round-trip hike is 0.75 mile (1.2 km), with a 130-foot (40-m) gain in elevation exiting the site. Tour begins at the Wetherill Mesa kiosk. Vehicles over 25 foot (8 m) long are prohibited on the Wetherill Mesa road.

May 24 to September 2      10:00 am, 10:30 am, 11:30 am, 1:00 pm,  
2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, and 4:00 pm

### Step House, Self-Guided

#### 45 minutes to 1 hour (free - no ticket required)

Experience the unique opportunity to view both an early pithouse community and a multi-story cliff dwelling built centuries later within the same alcove. Total walking distance is about 0.8 mile (1.3 km) for this 100-ft (30-m) descent and ascent on a winding path. The loop trail begins near the Wetherill Mesa kiosk. A ranger is available for questions. The trail to Step House is open 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Site closes at 5:00 pm.

May 24 to September 2      10:00 am to 5:00 pm



View pithouses and a pueblo built centuries apart at Step House

## MOREFIELD CAMPGROUND AREA

### Morefield Campground Evening Ranger Program

#### 45 minutes (free - no ticket required)

Enjoy a National Park Service tradition by joining a ranger for a 45-minute evening presentation at the Morefield Amphitheater. Bring a flashlight.

May 26 to July 27      Nightly at 9:00 pm  
July 28 to August 24      Nightly at 8:30 pm  
August 25 to September 2      Nightly at 8:15 pm

### **Bird Hike**

This 2-hour, 2-mile (3.2-km) round-trip trail is an excellent place to see birds and wildlife. Bring your binoculars to look for golden eagles and peregrine falcons. Meet the ranger at the Knife Edge trailhead located at the north end of the Morefield Campground.

May 27 to September 2      Monday at 7:00 am

## SPECIAL BACKCOUNTRY HIKES

### Special Backcountry Hikes

Purchase tickets in advance, online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or call 877-444-6777. Reservations available early-April. Check back for updates.

### **Oak Tree House**

Oak Tree House is a 60-room site built on two ledges, and is one of the largest cliff dwellings in the park. It is a well preserved but fragile site that features plastered walls and varied architectural styles. This 2-hour, 1-mile (1.6-km) round-trip hike is moderately strenuous on a narrow dirt path, with steps carved into the sandstone, steep drop-offs, and two ladders (4- and 15-foot) (1.2- and 4.6-m). Total elevation change is 200 feet (61 m). Tour is limited to 10 people. Tickets are \$25.00 per person, all ages.

May 28 to September 7  
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday      8:00 am

### **Spring House**

As you hike to Spring House, you will be rewarded with views of alcove sites in Navajo and Wickiup Canyons. Spring House is the largest unexcavated cliff dwelling in the park. It is extremely fragile, so you will not enter the site, but will get excellent views of the cliff dwelling from a platform at the south end of the village. This 8-hour, 8-mile (12.9-km) round-trip hike is very strenuous along an unpaved, uneven trail with an elevation change of 1,500 feet (457 m) and includes steep drop-offs and switchbacks. Tour is limited of 10 people. Tickets are \$40.00 per person, all ages.

May 26 to June 5 and September 1 to October 6  
Sunday and Wednesday      8:00 am

### **Upper Navajo Canyon**

Enjoy the autumn weather and fall color as you hike this historic trail, built in the 1930s by the Public Works Administration. You will view Pinkley House and other small alcove sites; and experience two natural communities as you descend from the drier mesa top to the mountain chaparral in the canyon bottom. This moderate 5-hour, 6-mile (9.6-km) round-trip hike is along an unpaved, uneven trail that descends 760 feet (232 m) into upper Navajo Canyon, with steep drop-offs and switchbacks. Tour is limited to 14 people. Tickets are \$18.00 per person.

September 5 to October 5  
Thursday and Saturday      8:30 am

### **Wetherill Mesa Experience**

Expansive canyon views, spectacular glimpses of cliff dwellings, and Wetherill Mesa in the autumn will reward hikers on this moderate 4-hour, 4-mile (6.4-km) round-trip hike. You will follow an old fire road and an unpaved trail that crosses Wetherill Mesa. Tour is limited to 14 people. Tickets are \$18.00 per person. (*The Wetherill Mesa Experience includes driving time, round-trip to Wetherill Mesa. Total experience is about six hours.*)

September 6 to October 4  
Tuesday and Friday      9:00 am

All hikes are appropriate for well-prepared hikers. Children must be able to walk the extent of the trail on their own without difficulty.

Your safety depends on your good judgment, adequate preparation, and constant attention. Wear sturdy shoes or boots, bring lunch, and plenty of water. Shade is limited, so bring a hat and sunscreen.

*Evaluate your physical condition when choosing a hike.*